

REMARKS

The Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated September 21, 2004 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 12 and 17 have been amended. Claims 13 and 14 have been canceled. Claims 1-12 and 15-17 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for taking the time to discuss the outstanding Office Action with the Applicant's representative on June 2, 2005.

In addition, the Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for allowing claims 1-11 and indicating that claim 14 includes allowable subject matter.

The Office Action rejected claims 12, 13, and 15-17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over European Patent Publication 364,080 to *Stevens* in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,751,888 to *Lueckenbach*. The Applicant has amended claim 12 such that it now includes the allowable subject matter of claim 14. Accordingly, the Applicant submits that claim 12, as well as claims 13 and 15-17, which depend from claim 12, is patentable over the cited references and requests withdrawal of the rejection.

The application is in a condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner believes a conversation with the Applicant's representative would facilitate the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: June 20, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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